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16. A method for varying the size of a plurality of icons based upon an object characteristic, wherein the object characteristic is a number of files in the object, the method comprising the steps of:

storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;  
selecting individual icons for variable icon sizing;  
determining said object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of objects respectively associated with said selected individual icons;  
generating icon images of different respective sizes representing said objects, wherein the size of an icon is determined by said object characteristic; and  
displaying said different sized icon images representing said plurality of objects.

17. The method for varying the size of a plurality of icons of claim 16, wherein said generation step further comprises:

sorting icon images into an order based upon said object characteristic.

18. The method for varying the size of a plurality of icons of claim 17, wherein the method comprises:

determining the size of said icon by:  
associating a maximum sized icon image with an object having one extreme value for the object characteristic;

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associating a minimum sized icon image with an object having another extreme value for the object characteristic; and

assigning sizes to the remainder of said icon images with objects, in proportion to the objects associated with the maximum and minimum sized icons.

19. An apparatus for varying the size of a plurality of icons based upon an object characteristic, wherein the object characteristic is a number of files in the object, the apparatus comprising:

storing means for storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;

selecting means for selecting individual icons to perform variable icon sizing;

determining means for determining said object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of objects associated with said selected individual icons;

generating means for generating different sized icons representing said objects wherein said size of said icon is determined by said object characteristic of said objects; and

displaying means for displaying said variable sized icon images representing said plurality of objects.

20. The apparatus for varying the size of a plurality of icons of claim 19, comprising:

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sorting means for sorting icon images into an order based upon said object characteristic.

22. A computer readable medium containing program instructions to:

store icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;

detect the selection of individual icons;

determine an object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of objects respectively associated with said selected individual icons, wherein the object characteristic is a number of files in the object;

generate different sized icons representing said objects wherein the size of an icon is determined by said object characteristic; and

display said different sized icon images representing said plurality of objects.

27. A method for varying the size of a plurality of icons images displayed in a container of a display device based upon a user preference values designated for at least some of the plurality icon images, the method comprising:

generating different sized icon images, wherein the different sizes of the icon images are based upon said user preference value and a size gap between said icon images is based on the following equation:

$$(\text{max-min}) / (N-1),$$

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where N is the number of applications given a preference, min is the minimum icon size and max is the maximum icon size.

30. A method for displaying a plurality of icons in a window on a display device, comprising the steps of:

storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;  
receiving a user command to display icons of varied sizes in said window; and  
displaying said icons with different relative sizes within said window, wherein the different sizes of said icons are based upon characteristics of objects represented by the icons.

41. A method for varying the size of a plurality of icons based upon an object characteristic, wherein the object characteristic is a size of the object, the method comprising the steps of:

storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;  
selecting individual icons for variable icon sizing;  
determining said object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of objects respectively associated with said selected individual icons;  
generating icon images of different respective sizes representing said objects, wherein the size of an icon is determined by said object characteristic; and  
displaying said different sized icon images representing said plurality of objects.

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42. A method for varying the size of a plurality of icons based upon an object characteristic, wherein the object characteristic is an amount of memory that the object uses, the method comprising the steps of:

- storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;
- selecting individual icons for variable icon sizing;
- determining said object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of objects respectively associated with said selected individual icons;
- generating icon images of different respective sizes representing said objects, wherein the size of an icon is determined by said object characteristic; and
- displaying said different sized icon images representing said plurality of objects.

44. A method for varying the size of a plurality of icons based upon an object characteristic, wherein the object characteristic is a measure of how recently the object was added or amended, the method comprising the steps of:

- storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;
- selecting individual icons for variable icon sizing;
- determining said object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of objects respectively associated with said selected individual icons;
- generating icon images of different respective sizes representing said objects, wherein the size of an icon is determined by said object characteristic; and

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displaying said different sized icon images representing said plurality of objects.

45. An apparatus for varying the size of a plurality of icons based upon an object characteristic, wherein the object characteristic is a size of the object, the apparatus comprising:

storing means for storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;

selecting means for selecting individual icons to perform variable icon sizing;

determining means for determining said object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of objects associated with said selected individual icons;

generating means for generating different sized icons representing said objects wherein said size of said icon is determined by said object characteristic of said objects; and

displaying means for displaying said variable sized icon images representing said plurality of objects.

46. An apparatus for varying the size of a plurality of icons based upon an object characteristic, wherein the object characteristic is an amount of memory that the object uses, the apparatus comprising:

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storing means for storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon  
images;

selecting means for selecting individual icons to perform variable icon  
sizing;

determining means for determining said object characteristic with respect to  
each of a plurality of objects associated with said selected individual icons;

generating means for generating different sized icons representing said  
objects wherein said size of said icon is determined by said object characteristic of said  
objects; and

displaying means for displaying said variable sized icon images representing  
said plurality of objects.

48. An apparatus for varying the size of a plurality of icons based upon an object  
characteristic, wherein the object characteristic is a measure of how recently the object was  
added or amended, the apparatus comprising:

storing means for storing icon data representative of a plurality of icon  
images;

selecting means for selecting individual icons to perform variable icon  
sizing;

determining means for determining said object characteristic with respect to  
each of a plurality of objects associated with said selected individual icons;

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generating means for generating different sized icons representing said objects wherein said size of said icon is determined by said object characteristic of said objects; and

displaying means for displaying said variable sized icon images representing said plurality of objects.

49. A computer readable medium containing program instructions to:

store icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;

detect the selection of individual icons;

determine an object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of objects respectively associated with said selected individual icons, wherein the object characteristic is a size of the object;

generate different sized icons representing said objects wherein the size of an icon is determined by said object characteristic; and

display said different sized icon images representing said plurality of objects.

50. A computer readable medium containing program instructions to:

store icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;

detect the selection of individual icons;



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determine an object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of objects respectively associated with said selected individual icons, wherein the object characteristic is an amount of memory that the object uses;

generate different sized icons representing said objects wherein the size of an icon is determined by said object characteristic; and

display said different sized icon images representing said plurality of objects.

52. A computer readable medium containing program instructions to:

store icon data representative of a plurality of icon images;

detect the selection of individual icons;

determine an object characteristic with respect to each of a plurality of objects respectively associated with said selected individual icons, wherein the object characteristic is a measure of how recently the object was added or amended;

generate different sized icons representing said objects wherein the size of an icon is determined by said object characteristic; and

display said different sized icon images representing said plurality of objects.

53. The method of Claim 1, wherein the designated user preference values are different for each of the selected icons.

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54. The medium of Claim 53, wherein the designated user preference values are different for each of the selected icons.

55. The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the designated user preference values are different for each of the selected icons.